

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/655,983	ASTAKHOV ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Eric A. Gates	3722

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS**. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Applicant's amendment filed 3 November 2006.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-10, 13-21 and 25.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/3/06
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Monica S. Carter
 MONICA CARTER
 SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on 3 November 2006.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 2-10, 13-21, and 25 are allowed. Claims 2, 14, and 17 are the independent claims.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is Japanese Patent JP 357083313A to Suzuki et al., which was applied to the claims in the office action mailed 2 August 2006. Suffice it to say, the patent to Suzuki et al. does not disclose "wherein the crossover port is primarily formed in the tubular shank" as claimed in independent claim 2, "wherein the area of the outlet passage is sufficiently small in relation to the area of the relief passage so that over ten percent of the drilling fluid exits the end clearance volume through the relief passage" as claimed in independent claim 14, or "wherein the cross-sectional area of the outlet passage is less than fifty percent of a longitudinal cross-sectional area of the bottom space taken along the hole axis, so that the drilling fluid exiting the outlet passage into the elongate fluid return path initially forms a maximum angle beta, relative to the hole being drilled when viewed radially, which is sufficiently large to effectively cool the tip cutting edge without stagnation" as claimed in

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independent claim 17, and as such does not anticipate the instant invention as disclosed in independent claims 2, 14, and 17.

Furthermore, there is no combinable teaching in the prior art of record that would reasonably motivate one having ordinary skill in the art to so modify the teachings of Suzuki et al., and thus, for at least the foregoing reasoning, the prior art of record does not render obvious the present invention as set forth in independent claims 2, 14, and 17.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric A. Gates whose telephone number is 571-272-5498. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:45-6:15.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Monica Carter can be reached on 571-272-4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


EAG
17 January 2007


MONICA CARTER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER